

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /066 W

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1450

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FI, VN

SUBJECT: PHAM VAN DONG VISIT TO FINLAND

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. VIETNAMESE PRIMIN PHAM VAN DONG MADE OFFICIAL VISIT TO FINLAND MAY 29-31 ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER OF OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY DINH DUC THIEN AND DEPUTY FONMIN NGUYGEN CO THACH. PHAM HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST, PRIMIN SORSA, AND OTHER GOF OFFICIALS, TOURED INDUSTRIAL SITES, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE, AND MET WITH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN BEFORE CONTINUING ON TO DENMARK AND NORWAY.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, TALKS BETWEEN FINNS AND VIETNAMESE CONCENTRATED ON ECONOMIC ISSUES. VIETNAM IS MAJOR RECIPIENT OF FINNISH DEVELOPMENT AID (REPORTEDLY 55 MILLION FINNMARKS IN CREDITS AGREED ON TO DATE). DISCUSSION REPORTEDLY FORCUSED ON CONSTRUCTION OF DRY DOCK AT PHA RUNG AS FIRST MAJOR PROJECT. OTHER PROJECTS DISCUSSED INCLUDED COOPERATION IN PAPER INDUSTRY, NAVIGATION, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS. SORSA TOLD PRESS THAT VIETNAM IS SUITABLE PARTNER FOR FINNISH
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DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BECAUSE "IT CONSISTENTLY REALIZES ITS RECONSTRUCTION AND COOPERATION PLANS."

3. TWO SIDES ALSO DISCUSSED POSSIBLE BILATERAL TRADE, AND COMMUNIQUE SAID IT WAS FOUND DESIRABLE TO INCREASE TRADE. VIETNAM REPORTEDLY INTERESTED IN WOOD AND METAL INDUSTRY TECHNOLOGY, IN RETURN FOR FINNISH IMPORTS OF

VIETNAMESE WOOD FOR FURNITURE INDUSTRY. FINNISH TRADE DELEGATION WILL VISIT VIETNAM SHORTLY TO DISCUSS COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT.

4. TALKS ALSO TOUCHED ON POLITICAL ISSUES. PHAM AT PRESS CONFERENCE THANKED FINNS FOR IMPORTANT SUPPORT TO VIETNAM DURING WAR. HE SAID ATTEMPTS BEING MADE TO NORMALIZE VIETNAMESE RELATIONS WITH US, BUT "THIS PRE-SUPPOSES US MUST BE READY TO REPAIR DAMAGE OF WAR." HE ASSERTED UN MEMBERSHIP NOT A PROBLEM BECAUSE VIETNAM'S SEAT IS RESERVED FOR HIS COUNTRY. SORSA ASSURED PHAM THAT "OUR COUNTRY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT WITHOUT RESERVATION VIETNAM'S MEMBERSHIP IN UN AND WE WISH THAT POSITIVE SOLUTION WILL BE REACHED ALREADY NEXT AUTUNM."

5. MEDIA PAID MODERATE ATTENTION TO VISIT WITH GREATEST COVERAGE GIVEN BY OFFICIAL DAILY OF SORSA'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. ONLY EDITORIAL TO DATE WAS ON JUNE 2 IN LEADING INDEPENDENT HELSINGIN SANOMAT, WHICH NOTED PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC EXCHANGE WITH VIETNAM ARE LIMITED BY SCANT RESOURCES OF BOTH COUNTRIES. PAPER OBSERVED VIETNAM'S RECOVERY IS SLOWED BY DISAGREEMENT OVER US "PROMISE" OF ASSISTANCE.
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6. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES INDICATE THAT VIETNAMESE DELEGATION DISAPPOINTED THAT NO COMMITMENT RECEIVED FROM GOF CONCERNING FINANCING OF DRY DOCK CONSTRUCTION REFERRED TO PARA 2.
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FINNISH TRADE DELEGATION WHICH WILL VISIT VIETNAM SHORTLY IS EMPOWERED TO DISCUSS ONLY COMMERCIAL MATTERS. THEREFORE QUESTION OF FINNISH FINANCING OF DRY DOCK NOT EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED BY TRADE DELEGATION IN VIETNAM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: ITINERARY, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETING REPORTS
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PFOR, FI, VN, VM, (DINH DUC THIEN), (PHAM VAN DONG), (NGUYGEN CO THACH)
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Type: TE
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